PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant' s or agent' s file reference PU 030096	**FOR FURTHER ACTION**	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/US04/09712	International filing date *(day/month/year)* 30 March 2004 (30.03.2004)	Priority date *(day/month/year)* 31 March 2003 (31.03.2003)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC: **H04N 7/25,7/10** USPC: 725/32,33,34,35,36		
Applicant THOMSON LICENSING S.A.		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:
   a. ☒ *(sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau)* a total of 4 sheets, as follows:
      ☐ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
      ☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
   b. ☐ *(sent to the International Bureau only)* a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) ____ , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in electronic form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
   - ☒ Box No. I Basis of the report
   - ☐ Box No. II Priority
   - ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
   - ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
   - ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
   - ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
   - ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
   - ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
02 August 2005 (02.08.2005)	24 April 2006 (24.04.2006)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/ US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201	Authorized officer KIEU-OANH BUI Telephone No. 571-272-7291

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet)(April 2005)

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/US04/09712

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on:

☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed.

☐ a translation of the international application into English, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))

☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4(a))

☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2(a) and/or 55.3(a))

2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished

☒ the description:
pages 1-17 as originally filed/furnished
pages* NONE received by this Authority on
pages* NONE received by this Authority on

☒ the claims:
pages NONE as originally filed/furnished
pages* NONE as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
pages* 18-21 received by this Authority on 02 August 2005 (02.08.2005)
pages* NONE received by this Authority on

☒ the drawings:
pages 1-12 as originally filed/furnished
pages* NONE received by this Authority on
pages* NONE received by this Authority on

☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☒ the description, pages NONE
☒ the claims, Nos. NONE
☒ the drawings, sheets/figs NONE
☒ the sequence listing (*specify*): NONE
☒ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): NONE

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

☐ the description, pages
☐ the claims, Nos.
☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*):

** If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."*

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/US04/09712

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-21	YES
	Claims NONE	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims 1-21	YES
	Claims NONE	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims 1-21	YES
	Claims NONE	NO

2. Citations and Explanations (Rule 70.7)

Claims 1-21 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(4), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a method for controlling an apparatus having an emergency alert function comprising the steps of detecting a first and a second condition as stated in claims 1, 8, and 15 wherein a test signal is broadcasted on a schedule periodic basis and the test signal which associated with the emergency alert function is detected whether it is passed or not in addition to the detection of the signal strength on a selected channel associated with an emergency alert function exceeds a threshold.

CLAIMS

1. A method (300, 500, 600, 800) for controlling an apparatus having an emergency alert function, comprising steps of:

detecting a first condition wherein signal strength on a selected channel associated with said emergency alert function exceeds a threshold (610);

detecting a second condition wherein a broadcast test associated with said emergency alert function is passed, said broadcast test including detecting reception of a test signal that is broadcast on a scheduled periodic basis (805, 815, 830); and

providing an output if said first and second conditions are detected.

2. The method (300, 500, 600, 800) of claim 1, wherein said broadcast test includes determining whether said test signal includes a user selected location code associated with said emergency alert function.

3. The method (300, 500, 600, 800) of claim 1, wherein said test signal is broadcast on a weekly basis.

4. The method (300, 500, 600, 800) of claim 1, further comprised of:

tuning a plurality of channels associated with said emergency alert function (310); and

identifying one of said channels having higher signal strength relative to said other channels as said selected channel (310).

5. The method (300, 500, 600, 800) of claim 4, further comprised of using said selected channel to receive emergency alert signals capable of activating said emergency alert function (320).

6. The method (300, 500, 600, 800) of claim 1, further comprised of:

providing a first output message (700) if said first condition is not detected (650); and

providing a second output message (900, 1000, 1100) if said second condition is not detected (825, 840, 860).

7. The method (300, 500, 600, 800) of claim 6, wherein said first and second output messages each indicates a corrective action.

8. An apparatus (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:

processing means (27) for detecting a first condition wherein signal strength on a selected channel associated with said emergency alert function exceeds a threshold, and for detecting a second condition wherein a broadcast test associated with said emergency alert function is passed, said broadcast test including detecting reception of a test signal that is broadcast on a scheduled periodic basis; and

first output means (30) for providing an output if said first and second conditions are detected.

9. The apparatus (20) of claim 8, wherein said broadcast test includes determining whether said test signal includes a user selected location code associated with said emergency alert function.

10. The apparatus (20) of claim 9, wherein said test signal is broadcast on a weekly basis.

11. The apparatus (20) of claim 8, further comprising:

tuning means (22) for tuning a plurality of channels associated with said emergency alert function; and

wherein one of said channels having higher signal strength relative to said other channels is identified as said selected channel.

12. The apparatus (20) of claim 11, wherein said tuning means (22) tunes said selected channel to receive emergency alert signals capable of activating said emergency alert function.

13. The apparatus (20) of claim 8, further comprising second output means (29) for providing a first output message if said first condition is not detected, and for providing a second output message if said second condition is not detected.

14. The apparatus (20) of claim 13, wherein said first and second output messages each indicates a corrective action.

15. A television signal receiver (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:

a processor (27) operative to detect a first condition wherein signal strength on a selected channel associated with said emergency alert function exceeds a threshold, and to detect a second condition wherein a broadcast test associated with said emergency alert function is passed, said broadcast test including detecting reception of a test signal that is broadcast on a scheduled periodic basis; and

a visual indicator (30) operative to provide an output if said first and second conditions are detected.

16. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 15, wherein said broadcast test includes determining whether said test signal includes a user selected location code associated with said emergency alert function.

17. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 16, wherein said test signal is broadcast on a weekly basis.

18. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 15, further comprising:

a tuner (22) operative to tune a plurality of channels associated with said emergency alert function; and

wherein one of said channels having higher signal strength relative to said other channels is identified as said selected channel.

19. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 18, wherein said tuner (22) tunes said selected channel to receive emergency alert signals capable of activating said emergency alert function.

20. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 15, further comprising a display (29) operative to provide a first output message if said first condition is not detected, and a second output message if said second condition is not detected.

21. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 20, wherein said first and second output messages each indicates a corrective action.